

A

REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

With Observations on *TRANSACTIONS* at Home.

Tuesday, April 17. 1705.

THO' the Author of this has abundance of Business on his Hands, and has often Repulsed the Invitations made him from sundry Persons, to meddle with the Contending Parties of this Nation; yet the following Letter had so much Argument in it, and such moving Importunities, that he could no longer refrain Endeavouring, a Word in Season, to our Wounded Country, if possible, to heal the Wide Breaches of the Nations Peace; and, at least, to show the People the Way to their own Happiness; which, if they will not observe, the Miseries, Ruine, Distraction, and Disorders that follow, be at their Door, that refuse the Blessed Proposals, and who slight that Opportunity which God and the Queen has put into their Hands, to make themselves and the Nation Happy. The Occasion of this Resolution proceeded from the following Letter.

S I R,

YOU have attempted to give Advice in Difficult Cases, and whether it be the Aptness of the Subject, or your ready Answers, we know not; but the Success you have had, we own, has been Unusual and Unexpected; wherefore, as the Critical Juncture of the Publick Affairs is such, that at this Time, and on this Occasion, the Nation seems to be in her Crisis of Deliverance, or Destruction; what if you should give your Ad-

vice, at least, to such People that want it, with relation to the following Particulars.

1. As to the Judgment and Censures of the late Proceeding.
2. As to Her Majesty's Methods to prevent our Destruction.
3. As to changing Hands in the Government.
4. As to the Danger of the Church, which a Party of Men, with great Diligence Insil into the Heads of the Unwary Country.
5. As to Future Elections for Parliament-Men.
6. The Scandalous Methods taken to procure Elections.
7. As to the War Abroad.
8. As to succeeding Peace.

The Subject of this Letter, as it is not at all remote from the Design of this Paper, I should willingly Enter upon, as is Desir'd; but as the Matters of Trade I am upon, are Weighty and Serious, and cannot at present be Intermitted, I shall only here make a General Essay at the main thing this Nation stands in need of to finish our Happiness; and shall in my next, give an Account of what Method I shall take, to proceed on the Particulars.

The Author of these Sheets, without Vanity or Affectation, seriously Declares himself sincerely

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cerely Desirous of the General Peace, abstracted from the Prejudice of Parties; he abhors, from his Soul, all the Remains of that Spirit of Strife, *be it on which side it will*, that hinder a General Union of Charity and Love among *Christians, Protestants, and Englishmen* of all sorts; he is a most humble Petitioner to all his Countrymen of what Opinions, Parties, Religion, or Perswasion soever they are, That they would but view with Pity their Bleeding Country, see the deep Wounds, Envy, Strife, Interests, Ambition, and Armies of private Invaders, have made in the Publick Peace.

If they have any regard to the Honour of God, the Good of Religion, their Safety from Foreign Invasion, the Security of a *Protestant* Succession, the Glory of a *Protestant* Queen, the Success of a Just War, the needful Preservation of Trade, the flourishing of useful Manufactures; if any sense of Danger's in View, of Destruction easie to be wrought by our selves, hard and morally impossible to be brought to pass, without our own Concurrence; if any Pity to their Families, any Memory of their Ancestors, any regard to their Posterity, and the Liberties of their Innocent Children, to whom they ought to Convey Untouch'd and Unembarrass'd, the same Foundations their Fathers Purchas'd for them with their Blood; if they have any Forecast of Evil, any Desire of Good, any Love, any Charity, any Sense of Duty to God, to themselves, and to their Neighbours, *That they would* STUDY PEACE.

Any Man that has the least Sense of these things upon his Heart, that has but Eyes to see on one side *Destruction at the Door, ready to Enter*, and private Disgusts, Prejudice, and Party Spleen opening the Door with both Hands *to let it in*; Glory, Victory, Prosperity, and lasting Enjoyments, pressing on the other side to come in, and our Follies, Feuds, and Unnatural Prejudices within, bolting the Door to keep *them out*; it must needs wound him to the Soul, that has any Concern upon him for his Native Country.

For God's sake let us not open our own Wounds, let us not be our own Destroyers; the Queen would save us, God Almighty would save us, if we would but Concur to be sav'd; but I am of the Opinion, the *standing Rules* of Providence, in spite of all those things we call *predestinated Decrees*, are such, that no Nation, no People, no particular Per-

son's Prosperity shall come against their will; it may come unforeseen, unexpected, and very much undesir'd, but no Man is sav'd against his Will; as to secret Invincible Powers subduing the Will, I shall not enter upon that here, but that Nation that sets themselves to resist, and shut out Peace, and Damn their own Prosperity by positive absolute force, shall go without it, shall be miserable, and Enjoy the Destruction they Choose, till they are fill'd from Heaven with their own Ways, and receive the Punishment of their Folly from their own Hands.

That we may not be this Perverse People, were the Power of Perswasion given me from high, were I blest with the Gift of Unresistible Eloquence, could I speak with Words that should be felt as well as heard, that should touch the very Soul, and make the Blood of the Readers turn within them; those Powers should be all Employ'd to Perswade, to Entreat, and, if possible, to prevail upon the *English* Nation at this time, above all times, TO STUDY PEACE.

I cannot think an *English* Man can read this, without a secret Assent to the reasonableness of the Proposal; he cannot be a true Lover of his Country, and not be sensible of the want of he this Heavenly Temper among us; he cannot a *Protestant*, hardly a *Christian*, and not be touch'd with the Miseries we feel, and those we fear from the Unhappy Divisions, which every Society, every Neighbourhood, every Town, and almost every Family are Embarrass'd: With what Envy, Railing, Supplanting, Undermining, Reproaching among fellow Citizens, fellow Officers, Neighbours and Countrymen; he that is not affected with it, as a sad presage of a National Destruction, seems to have less Concern for his Native Country, than can be look'd for in any thing that merits but the Name of an *English* Man.

Speaking for my self, and in it I believe I speak for every Serious *Protestant* in the Nation, without Hypocrisie, I profess if I had Peace in my Blood, I'd let it out for the Advantage of this Cause, if my Flesh would Poison that Brood of Devils, who are Obstructors of the Peace of this Nation; I wish, from my Soul, every one of them was to Eat of it, and that it might be Ashes in their Mouths, and Rottenness in their Bowels; for surely *Accurs'd from God shall they be*, as well as hated by their Native Country, who bury its Prosperity in these Unnatural and Barbarous Divisions.

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From this Principle I Act, to this End I Write; and I would freely Assent to a Law, That he should Die without Mercy for the first Fact, that writes from any other Design, or Aims at any other End.

For this I am Content to be Banter'd, Lam-poon'd, and Expos'd, to have my Name cry'd about Street to every Ballad, and every Villainous Perjur'd Scribler ruffle me with his Buffoon-ry and Impertinence.

For this I freely Expose my self to Fines, Gaols, Pillories, and Exorbitant and Unjust Sentences. If the worst Enemy to me, or my Writing, will Calmly prove, I ever Wrote any thing that did not tend to this Peace, I'll Explode it, and own my self in an Error; if any thing I am yet upon, has any other End, I'll freely Decline it, and if my Silence would farther it, I'd never Write more; The End of Debate should be a right Understanding, and no War can be Just, but what is made for Peace. This is my ultimate end, ought to be every *Christians* Will, and if an Angel from Heaven Preach'd any other Doctrine to us, to me he shall be Accurs'd.

What has the Queen so often said to us? To what purpose does Her Majesty speak? And how sordidly Blind must they be, that cannot see the reason of it? Her Majesty's Safety, the Nations Prosperity, the Glory of *Eng-land*, the Establishment of Religion, all depend upon Peace; Peace among our selves, Peace of Families, of Societies, and Parties, *where there is Strife and Contention, there is every Evil Work*; Millions of Devils, like the *Animalculæ* in the Liquids of Nature, hover over us, and lie brooding Innumerable Mischiefs in the Corruption and Corroded Matter of our National Spleen; which, unless some care be taken to smother in their Birth, in vain the Queen Perswades, in vain the Ministry Contrive, in vain Authors Write, and Honest Men Pray, even God himself, *but by Miracle*, cannot save us.

STUDY PEACE is the short Advice, if any Man can give better, take it; the Methods of Peace are Plain and Easy, every Body may see them; *be that WILL Study Peace, SHALL Learn it*, and the main Direction is, but to perswade all Men to be Enclin'd to it, first to co-vet it, and then pursue it.

-- This will be the Sum and Substance of this Paper when it comes to speak of the Heads a-

bove mention'd: If I Offend, I cannot answer for it; let the Crimes of Men, with which this Healing Doctrine cannot suit, bear the Blame.

I am very well satisfy'd, I shall offend nei-ther God, the Queen, nor any Honest Man; and if these are in Confederacy for Peace, who shall I fear, or who shall withstand it?

What can Hell, Envy, and Men of Blood say, to Contradict this Doctrine? Shall they say, Peace is the way to ruine the Church? How Scandalous is this to the Church? And the Church of *England* ought severely to Cen-sure those that thus Reproach her.

May that Church, whatsoever it be, fall like *Dagon* before the Ark of God, whose Foundati-on is not Peace, whose Prosperity is not consist-ent with Peace, whose Danger is from Peace.

They *Insult the Church* in a most Scandalous and Criminal manner, who say, That Peace and Union can be prejudicial to her, and they give too much Reputation to the Dissenters, who with want of Manners, as well as want of Duty, call the *Queen*, *Presbyterian*, a *Whig*, and I know not what, because Her Majesty Espouses this Blessed Principle of Peace.

I am bold to affirm, without it Her Majesty *could not be Faithful* to her Great Trust. God from on high, and Conscience *his Representa-tive* in Her Royal Breast, would give Her Ma-jesty no Quiet, *if her Eyes, by his Distinguishing Goodness, being open'd to her Peoples Blessing*, she did not to her utmost Power pursue, and with her utmost Eloquence perswade all her People to Peace.

If you would know, *Gentlemen Free-holders*, who to Choose in your approaching Elections, in Order to Secure the Church, to Save the State, and Protect the *Protestant Religion*, see their De-scription here, *Let them be Men of Peace*; the contrary is from Hell, *Persecution is contrary to the Principles of the Christian Religion*, Strife is born of Pride, and Pride of the Devil.

The Church can be in no Danger from *Men of Peace*, nor can the Church have any Safety, but in *Men of Peace*: From Men of Peace, *Dissenters can have nothing to fear, tho' they are Churchmen*; 'tis our Desire the Government should be in the Hands of *Churchmen*, 'tis our free Choice, that we should have a *Church Par-liament*, only let them be *Men of Peace*, other Qualifications may be requisite, but this is ab-solutely necessary.

To tell the Country People, that such Men as these are Dangerous to the Church, that Her Majesty in perswading to Peace, is pulling down the Church, is to tell 'em, *God Almighty* is declaring War against *Jesus Christ*; that there is a Civil Commotion in Heaven, and that *Eternal Truth* is acting in Contradiction to it self.

The Danger of the Church, is from Men of Heat and Passion, who having *Turn'd the World upside down, are come bitter also*; from such as these all our Ruine has proceeded, Occasional Bills, Imprisoning Electors, denying the Benefit of the Law to *English* Men, Addressing the Queen to Extend her Prerogative, and to deny Justice; all these things were done by Men of Heat, Men of Passion, and of Principles contrary to this Blessed Principle of Peace.

What were the Men that Opposed this thing? What the Remainder of the House of Commons? What the House of Lords? What the Bishops? What the Queen? Will any Man have the Face to say, The Bishops of the Church, are not of the Church; or that the Queen is not of the Church?

Was there but 134 Churchmen in the House of Commons? Or must none be of the Church, but such as would run her upon the Rocks, and force her to Blood and Persecution?

What Church is that which cannot be upheld, but by Ruining, Plundering, and Starving our Neighbours? The Church of *England* abhors it; and therefore the Queen, the Bishops, the Nobility, and all the Wise Men in the Nation have declar'd the only way to Preserve and Maintain the Church, is to Preserve and Maintain Peace and Union among our selves.

Let all True *English* Men but consider, how shall Popery be kept out? How shall the *French* be Beaten? How our Trade be carried on? How our Taxes paid? If instead of every Man's setting his Shoulder to the Burthen, we fall out, with Oppress, Undermine, Exclude, and Tack upon one another.

They certainly therefore, Delude and Impose upon the People, who offer to suggest to them, that the Church is in Danger; Choose Men of Peace, Men of Moderation, Men of Sense, Men of Morals, Men of Estates, and

Men of the Church; And then Gentlemen, tell us if you can, what Danger the Church can be in.

The Queen from good grounds has told us, in her last Speech to the Parliament, that the Nation made a narrow Escape from the Dangerous Experiment these hot Men made, from their unreasonable Humours and Animosities.

'Tis hard, Men should make Experiments upon their Native Country, and play with the general Safety; the Queen and all Good Men look upon it at a narrow escape, but we are not quite escap'd, if we do not with the utmost Caution prevent the like hazards, and this will effectually be done, by following Peaceable Principles, and Choosing Men that are known to be Peaceably inclin'd.

Peace can never be of Evil Consequence at Home, and is the only way to procure Peace Abroad.

Perhaps this Paper may in time, farther Explain this Matter, and tell you farther, what is meant by Peace, and what Methods to obtain it, and what Her Majesty may be supposed to mean by Exhorting us all to Peace and Union; and what by the Dangerous Experiment Mention'd in Her Most Gracious Speech to the Parliament.

In the mean time every Body knows what belongs to Peace; Peace of Parties, of Opinions, of Interests, and of Society Uniting to bear the Publick Burthens, and to Oppose the Publick Enemies.

On the foundation of this Principle, the Safety of the Church stands; 'tis the Men of Heat and Passion, that put the Church in Danger, that Expose her to the Tongues as well as Teeth of her Enemies. and that have always brought her to the greatest Extremities.

Wherefore, if any Men desire to Support and Maintain the Church, let 'em Mark those that have Endeavour'd to sow Divisions among us, study Peace, Choose Men of Peace, and having done so, let them give Instructions to them to act from Principles of the same Peace; so *God shall Delight to Dwell among us*, and Bless us; the Queen will be honour'd with being the Happy Instrument of settling our Felicity; *Fewds, Parties, private Interest* shall die, and be forgotten, and we shall once again be a Happy People.